

measure of security and individual liberty, the individual must be free from the inherent constraints of Government. It restores those values from which we have drifted, and it offers every American the opportunity to achieve real personal wealth—not with the Government telling you what you are going to get in retirement, not with the Government telling you you have to retire, not with the Government telling you what benefits that you are going to get—but America will be offered the opportunity to achieve real personal wealth and the dignity and the freedom and the security that it affords in retirement.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. GRAMS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The Senator from Minnesota.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, October 2, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,525,136,204,444.24 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-five billion, one hundred thirty-six million, two hundred four thousand, four hundred forty-four dollars and twenty-four cents).

One year ago, October 2, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,387,382,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred eighty-seven billion, three hundred eighty-two million).

Twenty-five years ago, October 2, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$461,744,000,000 (Four hundred sixty-one billion, seven hundred forty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,063,392,204,444.24 (Five trillion, sixty-three billion, three hundred ninety-two million, two hundred four thousand, four hundred forty-four dollars and twenty-four cents) during the past 25 years.

FOURTEEN LITTLE LEAGUERS— THE PRIDE OF ALL OF US

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, when one pauses to ponder the implications of it all, 1998 has been a remarkable year in terms of there having been a sort of rebirth of (I still contend) America's great national pastime—baseball.

And as an old (very) former sports writer, I have never pretended that baseball has not always been my favorite sport. I like all of them, I hasten to say, but baseball is, to this good day, Number One with me.

So what, you may inquire, has made this year all that great? Let us begin

by recounting the drama of Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, each of whom broke the 37-year-old home run record of Roger Maris—and then kept on breaking their own records.

I had meant, Mr. President, to pay my respects long ago to 14 very special youngsters from Greenville, North Carolina, who made hearts beat faster and faster as the team made their way to the national championship game of the Little League World Series.

Greenville is the hometown of a lot of good things and good people. East Carolina University is there, including its splendid medical school. It is a colorful city (56,000) which understands and practices the free enterprise system. And you better believe that everybody in the area around Greenville was proud of those 14 young Little Leaguers who made it to the championship game.

The young guys from Greenville lost that championship game to the team from Toms River, New Jersey, but they were winners big time just the same because they did win the consolation game with the excellent Canadian team. Look at it this way, Mr. President—the Little League team from Greenville ranks third in the world.

I have a hunch that they know that they are Number One in the hearts of all of us who watched them on television, night after night, cheering them on.

I should mention, by the way, that these comments were prompted by a fine young member of the Helms Senate Family, Josh Royster, who kept track of those fantastic youngsters from Greenville who made all of us proud.

Josh was impressed with the manner in which coaches and parents and countless other folks sacrificed to support their team. They traveled across the country for the better part of six weeks, rooting for the Greenville Fourteen. That's what morale and role modeling and love and good citizenship are all about. And then when the 14 young guys arrived home, Josh says that 2,000 people turned out to greet them and cheer them on.

A long time ago, when I was a lot younger than the Little Leaguers of 1998, Dad told me something that I have never forgotten: "Son," he said, "the Lord doesn't require you to win. He just expects you to try."

Those 14 young guys did try and I suspect they won a lot more than they now realize. For one thing, there's a Senator up here who's hoping that Greenville's Little Leaguers will be in the championship game again next season. I am not alone in my feeling that those youngsters will be glad they did.

THE HONORABLE THOMAS J. HARRELSON'S JULY 1, 1998, ADDRESS TO NEW CITIZENS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, during the past weekend in going through a file folder, I ran across a letter some-

how placed there inadvertently this past July just before my surgery to replace my worn-out 1921-Model knees with new 1998-Models.

The letter was from a longtime friend, Jim Lofton, well-known in Congress for his years as a highly respected assistant to the distinguished then-Congressman, Jim Broyhill, of North Carolina. (Jim subsequently served North Carolina's Governor Jim Martin who also had been a Congressman from North Carolina).

Jim Lofton, now president of the North Carolina Association of Financial Institutions, had written to share the text of an address by another distinguished North Carolinian, Thomas J. Harrelson, who on July 1 had delivered an inspiring address to an audience of several hundred people, including 41 new U.S. citizens whose naturalization occurred at the ceremony in Southport at which Mr. Harrelson spoke. Mr. Lofton decided, quite correctly, that I might want to share Tommy Harrelson's remarks at Southport by inserting the text into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. President, with gratitude to Mr. Lofton and Mr. Harrelson, I ask unanimous consent that the text of Mr. Harrelson's address be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE THOMAS J. HARRELSON

It is a great honor for me to participate in this ceremony and share this moment with you, your family, and friends.

We are gathered here in this patriotic time in a setting very appropriate to the occasion. This site on which we are standing, Fort Johnston, was built between 1748 and 1754 and was burned to the ground in 1776 by the Patriots who were tired of royal rule. It was rebuilt around 1812 and figured in other efforts to secure our freedom and independence. After all, the Cape Fear river was the super highway of the pre-colonial and colonial era, bringing some of the early European settlers to our shores.

One can imagine the native Americans, who must have come here often for the bounty of the river and the ocean, seeing the strange vessels and the pale skinned passengers in foreign dress. How exciting and fearsome it must have been to them and to the early settlers to come to terms with learning to live side by side without the benefit of a common language or an understanding of each other's cultures.

Yet these early settlers were just the first of the immigrants who made the United States the powerful yet diverse country that it is. Just as this river and others like it roll relentlessly to the ocean, so a reverse stream of immigrants moved up these same rivers and streams to populate the early eastern seaboard settlements, and finally to take the expansion to our Pacific coast, and even to Alaska and Hawaii.

In that early time in our history, water travel was the quickest, and in some cases, the only mode of transportation; the expansion of knowledge was just beginning to speed up, and communications depended almost entirely on the same mode of transportation. Now, people have exceptional mobility, the body of knowledge is doubling at an